



Infant Food Safety Policy

TO REDUCE THE RISK OF FOODBORNE ILLNESS WE DO THE FOLLOWING:

This policy is based on our respect for infants in our care and the trust you have placed in us. Our staff do everything we can to provide for the comfort and safety of your baby. We take special care to handle all infant foods in a way that reduces the risk of foodborne illness. Some food-borne diseases can cause vomiting and/or diarrhea and may result in dehydration which is especially dangerous for infants.

1. Our staff follow sanitary practices when preparing formula. All staff wash their hands before handling breastmilk, infant formula or food. We clean and sanitize all food preparation surfaces and use only clean and sanitized items, e.g. bottles, bowls, utensils.
2. Bottles prepared at the center will be mixed and fed to your infant right away, that is “mixed on demand.”
3. Breastmilk or formula will not be kept at room temperature for more than one hour. This is done to prevent the growth of bacteria and reduce the risk of illness for your baby. Any breastmilk or formula left in the bottle at the end of each feeding is discarded.
4. All breastmilk and formula in bottles and opened jars of baby food are kept refrigerated at or below 41° F.
5. All breastmilk and formula in bottles will be discarded or sent home after 12 hours.
6. Frozen breastmilk, can be stored at our center in a freezer (not a freezer compartment within a refrigerator) at 10 F or less for up to 2 weeks,. We thaw breastmilk in cool water and heat in warm water to a temperature that does not exceed 98.6F.
7. We treat baby food in a way that reduces the risk of illness for your baby. We serve baby food from a dish with a clean spoon (so saliva will not get in the jar). We only keep opened baby food for 24 hours.
8. We do not use a microwave to heat breastmilk (microwaving destroys much of the immune protection breastmilk provides your baby), infant formula or baby food. A microwave heats foods unevenly and can cause “hot spots” even with careful handling. We do not want to risk burning your baby. We do NOT microwave breastmilk.
9. If crockpots are used to warm bottles we will assure that the temperature of the water is kept below 120F.



WHAT PARENTS CAN DO . . .

♥ Keep your baby's bottle(s) refrigerated until you are ready to leave home. On arrival at the center, we will immediately refrigerate all food, breastmilk and formula.

♥ LABEL each bottle with your BABY's first and last name and DATE bottle was prepared.

♥ LABEL each freezer safe container of frozen breast milk with your BABY's first and last name and the date the milk was brought to the center.

♥ Leave your child's partially used bottle at home (such as an early morning bottle). We will prepare or give your child a new bottle when one is needed.



♥ Send bottles for 1 day only. All thawed breastmilk or formula will be sent home or thrown out at the end of the day. Frozen breastmilk may be stored at the center for up to two weeks.

♥ Send bottles filled with the amount your baby usually drinks instead of full bottles. This may mean more bottles, but it will cut down on waste. If your baby needs more breastmilk or formula we will gladly prepare another bottle.

♥ Send only unopened jars and cans of commercial baby foods.

♥ Keep cold foods cold and hot foods hot when you bring foods from home for your baby. We will gladly answer questions on how to handle food. If we can't answer your questions we will contact our local or state health department.

♥ Hints for safe food handling:

- ♥ Keep all items refrigerated until you leave home
- ♥ Put food in clean containers that close tightly
- ♥ Wrap food well to be sure it is well protected from contamination

Sometimes our Center's policies are different from what you do at home. This is because we must meet specific food safety standards for child care programs.

